



Georgios The Greek
Senior Member

Join Date: Sep 2020
Posts: 182

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What is the coldest temperature the potted fig trees can handle before put away? #1

10-06-2020, 06:08 PM

The only place that I can store them is in my garage.
My garage is a little warm because of 2 hot water heaters, and the figs star to waking up again.
By Spring it has grown at least 4-6" with some figs on them. No my garage does not have a window and it is completely dark in there.
I place the pods opposite from the heaters next to the garage door which is the coldest part of room.
I have no other place to put them.

I want to leave my pots outside as long as I can so they can go complete dormant, but I don't know how much cold they can tolerate and I really don't want to lose them.

Attached Files



Tags: None



Johnson1
Fig Phenom

Join Date: Feb 2018
Posts: 3854

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10-06-2020, 06:20 PM

#2

Location information would be beneficial.

Johnson1
Zone 9b
S of Tampa Bay, FL

6 comments

4 - 6 ☐



Georgios The Greek commented
10-06-2020, 10:49 PM

#2.4

Jeffrey88. Ok, thank you.

You live in Queens too?

How many fig trees do you have in pots or in ground and for how many years?



ziggy793 commented
10-06-2020, 10:53 PM

#2.5

Queens person here also!! We should start a queens sub group.



Jeffrey88 commented
10-07-2020, 01:31 AM

#2.6

I have Astoria green and hardy chicago in ground. LSU Tiger, Adriatic, White Madeira, Violet Sepor in 10g pots. Also received a 7g golden rainbow from friend last week. Mostly rooted last summer/winter, some obtained as air layer this year. One winter, I had left a brown turkey in 10g pot outside wrapped with plastic bag and they died.



jessup42
Fig Phenom

Join Date: Sep
2018
Posts: 2841

10-06-2020, 06:25 PM

#3

Big pots with more volume with do better than a small pot that will freeze 100% through. Lots of factors so more like an equation of "if, then, else" sttements. Southern exposure, cold drainage, wind exposure, latitude, etc

wnc Z7a Hominy Valley - fig sales at happyvalleyenv.com/shop

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1 comment



Georgios The Greek commented
10-06-2020, 06:49 PM

#3.1

I am in New York Queens zone 7A.
My pot size range from 5 to 25 gallons.
I put a very thin layer of mulch on top



CaricaChris
Senior Member

10-06-2020, 06:33 PM

#4

If I remember from one of your previous posts, you're from NYC like me. I leave mine out usually until mid November after they get hit by a few light frosts/freezes. Of course, if there's a freak early cold night, I would bring them in sooner and then put them back out.

Join Date: Mar
2018
Posts: 445

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Two years ago, we had a sudden cold snap to 13° in November, and that surely would've toasted a lot of the figs. They need a gradual reduction in temps to harden off to the cold optimally.

NYC Zone 7b & Central NJ 7a

3 comments



Georgios The Greek commented
10-06-2020, 06:45 PM

#4.1

Yes I live in New York Queens Zone 7a.
What would you say the red zone would be, that I should keep an eye on?
What is the danger zone?

My pot size range from 5 to 25 gallons



CaricaChris commented
10-06-2020, 08:10 PM

#4.2

Georgios The Greek Red zone would be 28° for me. Ideally we'd get a few nights of 30-32° and that's enough to put them well into dormancy. After that, they come inside when temps start getting towards the mid 20s.



Georgios The Greek commented
10-06-2020, 10:45 PM

#4.3

OK thank you.



fruitnut
Fig Phenom

10-06-2020, 07:09 PM

#5

A lot depends on the condition of the trees. If they have new green growth they are much more sensitive to early freezes compared to trees that stopped growing in mid summer and have brown wood out to branch tips. The green ones shouldn't be allowed to freeze at all. The ones with brown wood could take high to mid 20s in November. Anything colder than that and all need protection.

Join Date: Feb
2015
Posts: 2975

Alpine, Texas 4500ft elevation Zone 7
<http://growingfruit.org/>

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2 comments



swethakyadav commented
10-06-2020, 07:21 PM

#5.1

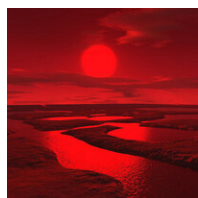
Steve, would anything not totally lignified be able to tolerate temperature in the low 40's



fruitnut commented
10-06-2020, 07:43 PM

#5.2

Just thinking about freeze damage, everything should tolerate low 40s. There are cases where rapidly growing plants are affected by a drop in root temperature. But that shouldn't affect the concerns of OP or anyone with plants that have been outside all summer.



Red_Sun
Fig Phenom

Join Date: Jul 2020
Posts: 3890

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10-06-2020, 09:17 PM

#6

It is not good to take chances. Although the temp forecast can be 35F, but the actual temperature can be 5F difference. So I do not trust the temp forecast. There can be wind chill and shaded areas that are colder.

I've had the root-ball frozen a couple of times. The plants did not die, but there were damages to branches. If you want to protect the breba crop, then you need to make sure the branches are not damaged.

This year, after most of leaves drop, I plan to move potted plants into garage. That would be probably mid November to me.

Princeton, New Jersey, 6B/7A
flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/red-sun/albums>
My FigBid: <https://www.figbid.com/Listing/Browse?Seller=RedSun>

1 comment



Georgios The Greek commented
10-06-2020, 10:43 PM

#6.1

You are absolutely right. Thanks for the advice



jrdewhirst
Fig Phenom

Join Date: Nov
2015
Posts: 4489

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10-07-2020, 12:03 PM

#7

Fruitnut is right, it depends on the state of the trees. If your trees have the opportunity to acclimate gradually to colder whether -- which normally would be the case in Queens -- then the trees could tolerate temperatures down to ~15-20 F without damage. But if the trees are still green and growing, they could be killed at 30 F. To be safe, I'd bring them in if the temperature is forecasted to drop below 25 F.

A frozen rootball is meaningless. Rootballs freeze solid on all fig trees stored where temps can drop below 30 F, without evident harm. The ground freezes around the roots of billions of trees of thousands of species in north temperate zones, without harm. Granted, figs did not evolve in a temperate zone. But in my experience, observing my own plants and others', we don't have to fret about the rootballs of our fig trees.

Joe, Z6B, RI.

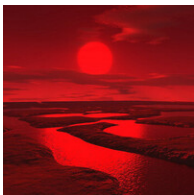
1 comment



ginamcd commented
10-07-2020, 02:28 PM

#7.1

If spending 4 months with frozen rootballs killed potted fig trees, I wouldn't have any trees make it beyond their first season.



Red_Sun
Fig Phenom

Join Date: Jul 2020
Posts: 3890

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10-07-2020, 12:20 PM

#8

The other thing to keep in mind that, it is not just the absolute temperature, or the greenness of the branches. **It is the speed of temperature changes.** For trees which are actively growing and have all leaves, if over-night temperature drops to 28F, then a lot of trees can be severely injured or even killed. This was what happened to us last fall and this spring.

A lot fruit tree farms in mountain areas in TN, KS, MO and KY etc. had severe damages this past spring. Some old fruit trees up to 6" diameter were killed. The lowest temperatures were only 25F and 27F. That was really nothing if the trees were in dormancy.

In urban areas like Queens, the temperature changes are less severe due to the dense neighborhood. But still keep all this in mind.

Princeton, New Jersey, 6B/7A
flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/red-sun/albums>

1 comment



Georgios The Greek commented
10-08-2020, 10:35 PM

#8.1

Gotcha 👍 Thanks



BlueEagle1967
Veteran

Join Date: Dec
2017
Posts: 827

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10-07-2020, 12:23 PM

#9

There are still Greeks in Queens? 🤔

Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania / Zone 6b

1 comment



Georgios The Greek commented
10-08-2020, 10:38 PM

#9.1

LOL, There are still a few left.
They are all moving out to Long Island



Nickd
Senior Member

Join Date: Feb
2022
Posts: 331

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11-07-2023, 04:54 PM

#10

We've had about 6-7 nights with freezes, the coldest being 25.5F. Tonight's forecast is 23F with a high of 32F tomorrow and lots of freezing rain and 20mph winds. Time to bring them in I guess... they've lost their leaves. Mostly figs I rooted in winter 2023 in 3-9 gal pots. Zone 5 southern Ontario. 1350ft elev.

Would tomorrow's forecast have been risky even without the freezing rain?

Centre Wellington, ON - Zone 5
WL: Campaniere, Iranian Candy, De Tres Esplets, Teramo, Figue Jaune, Hollier, Vince #3



11-08-2023, 11:05 AM

#11

davej
Fig Phenom

My trees just got hit by that surprise 24F hard frost last week so I am curious what damage will be seen next spring. Luckily I had not fertilized them much this summer and there was minimal unignified growth on them. Ideally you want them to be exposed to several light frosts so that they can prepare for cold temperatures. I then try to get them pruned and into the garage before outdoor temps get below 20F.

Join Date: Dec
2019
Posts: 3148

[Figs] -- Eastern Missouri -- Zone 6

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11-08-2023, 05:12 PM

#12

Figgy Pudding

I've got a friend watching my panache fig while I'm on sabbatical this year. She's concerned that it's losing its leaves. It's been inside since about August. Can anybody offer counsel for best case scenario. I think she's going to keep it inside of her house through the winter.

Join Date: Nov
2023
Posts: 2

1 comment

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ginamcd commented
11-08-2023, 06:02 PM

#12.1

We are going to need more info in order to try and help:

Where's home?

How cold does it get in winter?

What are herb indoor temps?

How much and what type of light is it being given?

Fertilizer - what and how much?

Depending on location and indoor temps, it could just be entering a semi-dormant state.

11-08-2023, 09:40 PM

#13



Jeffrey88

Senior Member

Join Date: Aug
2018
Posts: 382

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As long as the temperature doesn't go below 35F or stays at this temp for short period of time it should be fine. But if you have a small pot lets say 3 gal or smaller i would be concerned.

Anyways just to share you some of my experience for the past winter... Just wanted to experiment how figs perform outdoor during winter in zone 7b. All were 3-5 year old trees.

Potted LSU Tiger in 10 gal pot died.

Potted White Adriatic in 10 gal died to the soil level. Potted Golden Rainbow in 10 gal died to the soil level.

Transplanted to in-ground Violet Sepor died to the ground.

Transplanted to in-ground White Madeira #1 died to the ground.

Zero harvest this year.

Growing list: Qingpi Rimada, Kurume Kuroama, Violet Sepor, JAA (yellow beauty), WM#1, Golden Rainbow, LSU Tiger, White Adriatic, Longue d'aout, B110.

WL: Angelito or an early Adriatic.

2 comments



davej commented

11-09-2023, 04:16 PM

#13.1

What was the coldest temperature they were exposed to?



Jeffrey88 commented

11-09-2023, 08:12 PM

#13.2

Forgot, i think -5. I live in NYC btw.



WVMJack

Veteran

Join Date: Feb
2018
Posts: 850

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11-09-2023, 03:53 AM

#14

One important issue not mentioned in this thread is there is a difference in a properly watered pot freezing and dry pot freezing where the roots get dehydrated by the cold and this can kill the whole tree, this is one of the reasons you need to watch the moisture in your pots over the winter.

WV Harpers Ferry Zone 6b

Tweet

1 comment



ginamcd commented
11-09-2023, 09:27 AM

#14.1

Great point! My pots are typically saturated when they go into storage, so never really gave this point any thought when moving them in. My back does though...